ALIGNED

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# Aligned Issue Brief:

## Expanding Visiting Scholars Teaching Certificate to Address Critical Shortage Needs

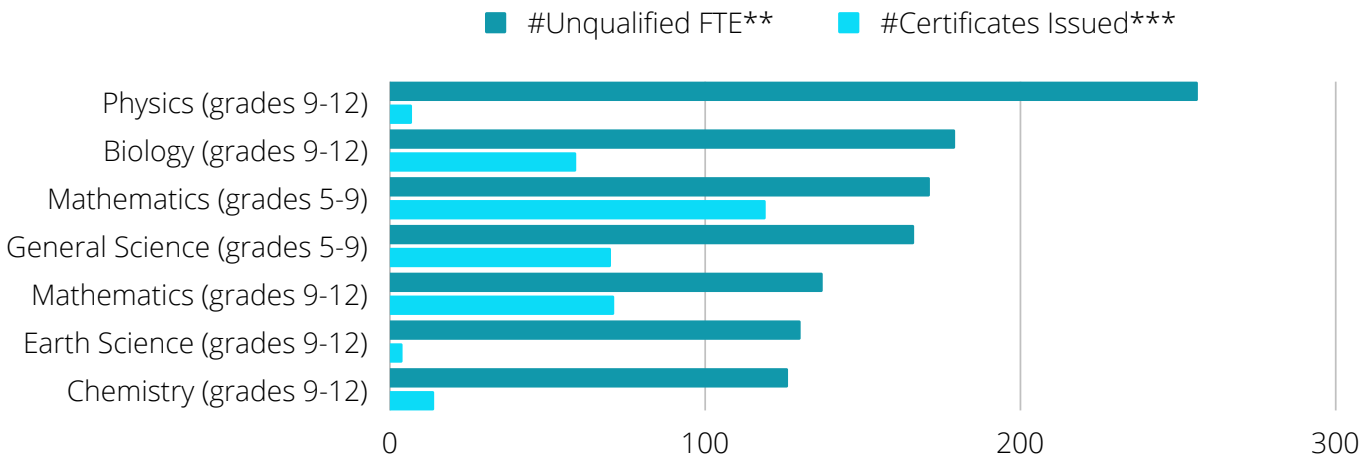
**Education leaders need every tool at their disposal in order to recruit and retain the most effective teachers. Each year schools face critical shortage needs. Addressing those needs will require strategies to widen the candidate pool with highly qualified individuals.**

In 2018, the Missouri General Assembly passed HB 1665 creating the Visiting Scholars alternative teaching certificate, allowing professionals with an academic degree or professional experience in a content area to teach at the high school level for up to three years as part of a business-education partnership initiative. Expanding the Visiting Scholars certificate will allow more professionals to use their skills and expertise to help fill these critical shortage areas.

### A Look at the Numbers

- Initial teaching certificates issued each year in Missouri have declined from 5,444 to 3,900 over the five-year period of 2014-2019.
- In recent years, traditional educator preparation programs have seen a substantial decline in enrollment from 14,139 in 2010-11 to 8,214 in 2017-18.*
- The 2020 Missouri Teacher Shortage Report showed that seven of the top 12 shortage areas were in secondary science and mathematics. Teaching certificates issued in those same content areas in 2020 will not fulfill the current need

### Teacher Shortage Areas




**Missouri has an opportunity to help meet teacher shortage needs by expanding the Visiting Scholars teaching certificate and allowing professionals to bring their skills and expertise to the classroom.**

*Notes: *Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. "Recruitment and Retention of Teachers in Missouri Public Schools: A Report to the Missouri General Assembly." December 2020.*
***Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. "Teacher Shortage Report for Missouri." Submitted to the U.S. Department of Education, December 2020.*
****Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. "Report on Teacher Workforce." Presentation to the State Board of Education (supporting data), September 2020. (Certificates issued January – September 2020)*